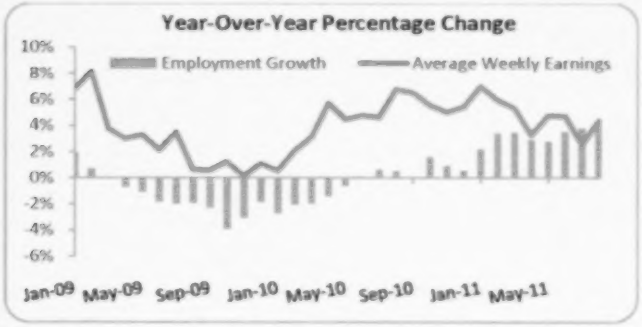
Average Weekly Earnings

Albert wages jump ...

Alberta's average weekly earnings advanced 1.8% in August to $1,045.24 after a one-off decline in July. The largest gains came from administration & support services[1] (8.2%), construction (7.1%), and wholesale trade (4.8%). On a year-over-year basis, wages increased 4.4% in the province. Nationally, wages edged up 0.8% to $877.28 in August and 1.9% year-over-year. This was led by gains in education services (3.9%) and administrative & support (3.5%).



Rigs Drilling

Drilling activity down ...

The average number of rigs drilling in Alberta declined 3.2% to 335 in October following a 7.1% increase in September. This brings the province's rig utilization to 59%, 3 percentage points lower than in September. On a year-over-year basis, the average number of rigs drilling in Alberta has increased 28.7%. Canada's average number of rigs drilling declined 4.2% to 485 in October.

Retail Trade

Albertans are shopping again ...

Seasonally adjusted, Alberta retail sales increased 1.4% to $5.3 billion in August after two consecutive monthly declines. The increase, which was the highest among the provinces, was mainly due to higher sales of new cars, used cars and automotive parts. Compared to August 2010, Alberta retail sales were up 6.4%. Nationally, retail sales increased 0.5% in August, and rose 3.9% year-over-year. All provinces, except PEI and Nova Scotia, experienced increases in retail sales.

Delayed Retirement

More Canadians retire later ...

According to Statistics Canada, 50-year old Canadian in 2008 will likely retire at age 66 — 3.5 years older than a 50-year old in the mid-1990s. At the same time, the employment rate among individuals aged 55 and older has risen 12 percentage points to 34% in 2010. However, Canadians are not necessarily spending less time in retirement, since life expectancy has also improved.

Canadian Dollar (US¢/C$)

October 28, 2011	100.43
October 21, 2011	99.10
2011-12 Fiscal YTD Average	102.06

1.3%

WTI Oil US$/bbl

October 28, 2011	$93.32
October 21, 2011	$87.40
2011-12 Fiscal YTD Average	$94.56

6.8%

Nymex Natural Gas US$/MMBtu*

Near-month Contract

October 28, 2011	$3.92
October 21, 2011	$3.63
2011-12 Fiscal YTD Average	$4.15

8.0%

**Based on the closing price of the near month contract*

Bank of Canada

Interest rates stay low and outlook softens ...

As expected, the Bank of Canada (BOC) maintained the overnight rate at 1% for the ninth consecutive time, reflecting increased exposure to external risks from the U.S. and euro-zone. The bank lowered its outlook for the Canadian economy from 2.8% to 2.1% in 2011, and expects the slow-growth to linger well into 2012. The current low interest rates will continue to support economic activity.

U.S. Economy

Growth finally strengthens ...

Preliminary estimates indicate that the U.S. economy expanded at an annualized rate of 2.5% in the third quarter, the strongest growth reported over the last year. Growth was led by acceleration in nonresidential fixed investment (16.3%), personal expenditures (2.4%) and net exports (2.1%).

Euro-zone

Leaders commit to help end debt crisis ...

European leaders have tentatively agreed on a plan to solve their sovereign debt crisis. The plan aims to reduce Greece's public debt by asking private investors and banks to take a write-down of 50% on their investments. The plan also includes a deal to bolster the existing European Financial Stability Facility (EFSF) fund to €1 trillion through leveraging. At the same time, Europe's biggest banks have to raise €106 billion to boost their capital. After the announcement, financial and stock markets rallied to their highest levels in nearly two months. Crude oil (WTI) prices climbed above US$90 per barrel, while the Canadian dollar closed above parity.

[1] This includes waste management & remediation services

Current Economic Indicators

	2009	2010	2011YTD*	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct
Population									
Population [1] (000's) (level)	3,672	3,721	3,779	--	--	3,779	--	--	--
% change	2.2	1.3	1.6	--	--	1.6	--	--	--
Net Interprovincial Migraton [1] (level)	13,184	-2,183	13,660	--	--	4,720	--	--	--
Net International Migration [1] (level)	16,835	21,533	22,081	--	--	7,080	--	--	--
Net Non-permanent Residents [1] (level)	19,162	-77	-7,988	--	--	1,233	--	--	--
Labour Market									
Employment (000's)	2,025	2,017	2,082	2,069	2,091	2,103	2,110	2118	--
% change	-1.3	-0.4	3.5	2.8	3.5	3.8	4.2	4.8	--
Unemployment Rate (%)	6.6	6.5	5.6	5.4	5.6	5.5	5.6	5.4	--
Participation Rate (%)	74.3	72.9	73.5	72.9	73.7	73.9	74.1	74.2	--
Average Weekly Earnings ($) NEW!	950.01	993.13	1033.20	1035.77	1038.46	1026.42	1045.24	--	--
% change	2.8	4.5	4.7	4.8	4.7	2.6	4.4	--	--
Price Indices									
Consumer Price Index	-0.1	1.0	2.2	2.8	2.1	1.9	2.9	2.8	--
Excluding food and energy	1.4	0.8	0.7	0.8	0.2	0.4	0.8	1.4	--
Non-Res. Building Cons. Price Index [2]	-9.8	-0.1	3.1	--	--	--	--	--	--
Farm Product Price Index	-10.6	-3.9	16.7	12.8	15.9	14.7	10.7	--	--
Crops	-18.9	-14.5	19.0	23.6	22.4	20.2	9.2	--	--
Livestock	-2.8	5.7	16.6	10.9	13.4	13.2	14.2	--	--
Household Sector									
Housing Starts (SAAR, 000's)	20.0	27.1	23.9	25.2	23.7	25.6	31.2	24.9	--
% change	-31.6	33.5	-15.2	-14.9	-11.6	-12.6	32.8	-9.8	--
New Housing Price Index	-9.0	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.2	--	--
Edmonton	-11.2	-0.8	0.9	0.7	1.2	1.1	0.9	--	--
Calgary	-6.7	1.7	-0.1	0.0	-0.3	-0.8	-0.5	--	--
MLS Average Resale Prices ($ 000's)	340.5	350.9	354.9	351.7	351.7	353.6	356.9	362.8	--
% change	-3.1	3.1	0.5	-2.4	-1.3	0.4	2.4	2.1	--
Edmonton	319.1	326.5	324.6	322.7	322.6	326.1	325.5	333.1	--
% change	-3.5	2.3	-1.6	-3.0	-1.8	0.0	-1.3	1.7	--
Calgary	384.3	397.4	402.4	403.7	399.3	399.2	405.7	409.8	--
% change	-4.2	3.4	0.7	-1.3	-2.3	-0.9	3.6	-0.1	--
Retail Sales NEW!	-8.3	6.0	6.1	8.0	7.6	6.4	6.4	--	--
New Motor Vehicle Sales	-21.7	9.3	7.7	6.9	16.9	6.1	4.3	--	--
Consumer Bankruptcies	9,986	8,150	4,334	617	649	534	--	--	--
% change	64.6	-18.4	-11.9	-8.2	-16.6	-14.7	--	--	--
Business Sector									
Rigs Drilling NEW!	128	207	276	84	150	240	323	346	335
% change	-45.6	61.3	42.2	50.4	26.9	20.8	45.4	95.5	28.7
Goods Exports (customs based)	-36.6	12.4	13.3	13.3	14.9	19.4	30.6	--	--
Energy	-40.2	17.2	13.9	15.8	14.8	23.5	33.7	--	--
Agriculture	-12.3	-14.4	5.7	3.8	-0.2	8.3	6.7	--	--
Total Farm Cash Receipts (quarterly)	-8.0	-3.9	15.9	--	--	--	--	--	--
Manufacturing Shipments	-23.7	11.0	16.2	16.7	16.0	15.1	15.6	--	--
Wholesale Trade	-15.9	10.8	14.4	17.2	18.1	15.4	13.4	--	--
Building Permits	-14.2	2.1	4.3	11.7	-14.9	17.4	37.4	--	--
Residential	-11.8	24.7	-6.2	-10.2	-3.6	9.5	27.1	--	--
Non-residential	-16.3	-19.0	19.8	51.9	-26.1	30.3	50.8	--	--
Business Bankruptcies	405	378	148	22	16	15	--	--	--
% change	-9.4	-6.7	-34.8	-37.1	-30.4	-44.4	--	--	--

Government of Alberta ■
Finance

Alberta

* YTD – year-to-date represents the change since the beginning of the year compared to the same period in the previous year.

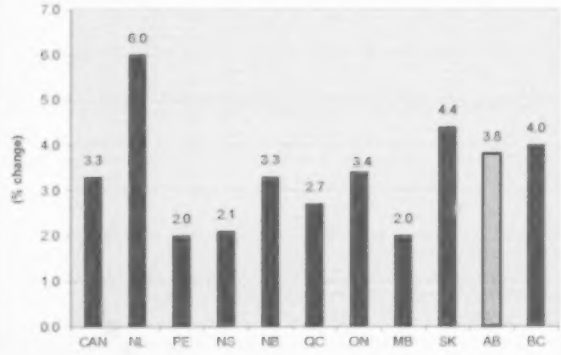
[1] Quarterly; annual numbers are presented on a census year basis (July 1–June 30).

[2] Quarterly, average of Calgary and Edmonton

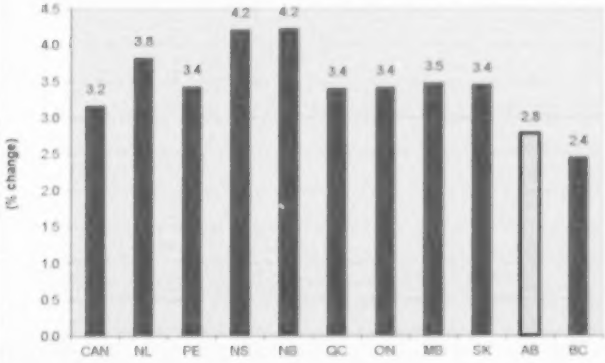
Sources: All data is from Statistics Canada except Housing Starts (Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation), MLS Average Resale Prices (Canadian Real Estate Association), Rigs Drilling (Canadian Association of Oilwell Drilling Contractors) and Bankruptcies (Office of the Superintendent of Bankruptcy Canada).

Current Economic Indicators by Province

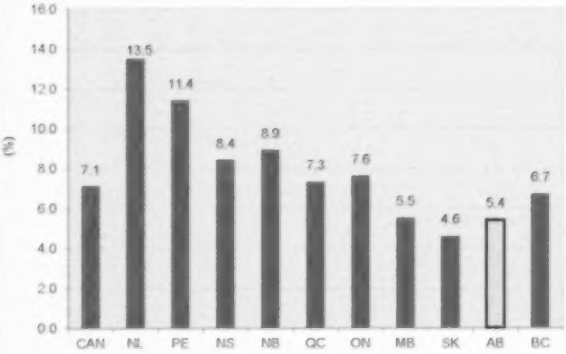
2010 Real GDP Growth by Province
(preliminary estimate, GDP by industry)



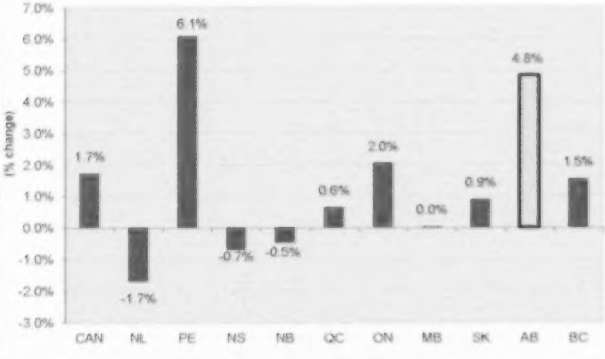
CPI Inflation
(September year-over-year % change)



Unemployment Rate
(September 2011, Seasonally Adjusted)

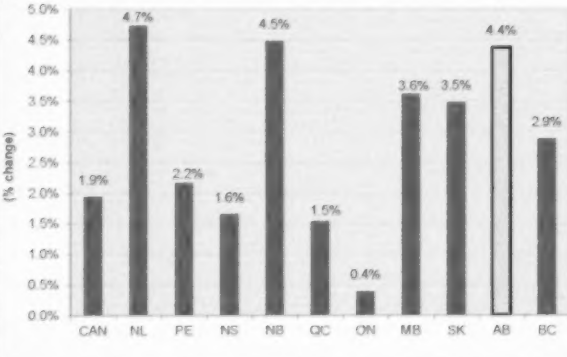


Employment
(September 2011, SA year-over-year growth)



NEW!

Average Weekly Earnings
(August year-over-year growth)



Housing Starts
(SAAR August 2011)